

Application No. 10/736,654

**Amendments to the Claims:**

**Listing of Claims:**

Please cancel claims 1 through 12.

13. (Original) A drip plate for use in an ink loader for a phase change printer, wherein the drip plate comprises:

first and second drip plate surfaces;

a lower pointed portion; and

an interior space for an internal heating device

14. (Original) The drip plate of claim 13, further comprising a slot for inserting a heating device.

15. (Original) The drip plate of claim 13, wherein the drip plate is made from plastic.

16. (Original) The drip plate of claim 15, wherein the drip plate is injection molded.

17. (Original) The drip plate of claim 16, wherein a heating device is injection molded into the drip plate.

18. (Original) The drip plate of claim 17, wherein the heating device is a PTC heating device.

19. (Original) The drip plate of claim 13, wherein the drip plate contains at least one hole through which ink can travel.

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20. (Cancel)